

# HOW MUCH WATER DO YOU USE?

Many people do not realize the amount of water used in everyday activities. Knowing how much water is used will help you determine what is "normal" for your household. Listed below are figures showing approximate usage for those routine activities.

*Hand Washing  
2 gallons with  
tap running*



*Showering  
25 to 50 gallons*

*Brushing Teeth  
2 gallons with  
tap running*

*Toilet Flushing  
5 to 7 gallons*



*Outdoor Watering  
5 to 10 gallons per  
minute*

*Automatic  
Dishwasher 15  
gallons per load*

*Bath Tub  
36 gallons*

*Shaving  
3 to 5 gallons  
with the tap running*

# USING WATER WISELY

Water conservation is something we all should practice. Except for the air we breathe, water is the most important element in our lives. It's too precious to waste. We have listed some helpful suggestions that will help you conserve our most valuable resource.

*When watering your lawn,  
water only the grass, not  
the streets, walks, and  
driveways.*

*When sweeping outside  
use a broom, not a hose.  
Save the water for more  
important activities.*

*Run full loads in your  
dishwasher. It uses the  
same amount of water, no  
matter the size of the load.*

*Keep a pitcher of water in  
the refrigerator, instead of  
letting the water run until  
it gets cool.*



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Water District No. 2**

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# WATER USER'S GUIDE



**Hardin County  
Water District No. 2**  
*Your Water Professionals*

# FIX THOSE LEAKS AND SAVE MONEY

Water leaks are costly. A typical toilet can leak around 2 gallons per minute. Which, if not repaired, can leak up to 3,000 gallons per day.



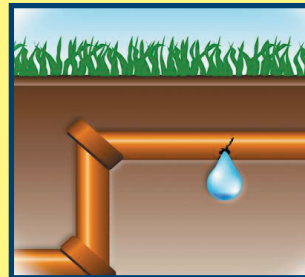
What seems to be small pin hole leaks in your plumbing can add up. Water leaks don't always come up to the surface. Conduct routine leak survey and don't wait until the leak gets bigger, fix it TODAY! Below is a chart to show you how those small problems can turn out to be big bills. These numbers are based upon water pressure of 60 PSI and a continuous leak over one month's time.

<u>Diameter of Stream</u>	<u>Gallons Used</u>
•	24,000
●	98,000
●	22,000
●	394,000

*Protect our most  
valuable resource*

# DO YOU HAVE A LEAK?

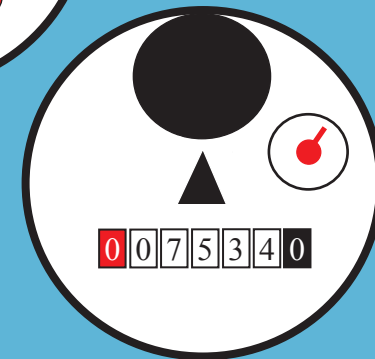
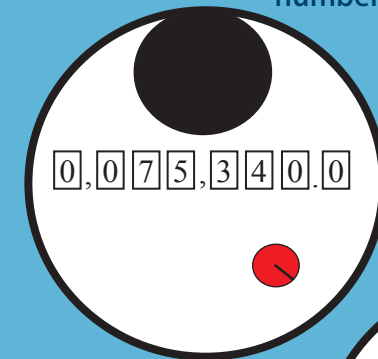
The best method for determining whether a leak exists, is to take an actual meter reading. Take a reading from your water meter just before going to bed or when you plan to not use any water for several hours. Take another reading before any water is used after that period of time. In theory, the readings should be the same. If they are different, subtract the start reading from the ending reading and this is your usage. If you cannot account for any water used from a humidifier, ice-maker, toilet flush, or a water softener, you may have a leak and further investigation is needed. From our experience, a large portion of residential leaks are found at the toilet tank. Leaks can be found around the flapper or at the top of the tank at the overflow tube. To test the flapper, carefully remove the tank lid add food coloring or dye tablets to the water. Shut off the water supply to the toilet. Recheck your mark after about 30 minutes; if the water in the bowl changes color, then the flapper needs to be replaced. To check the overflow tube, make sure the water level is at least 1" below the top of the overflow tube. Should the level be higher than 1", just adjust the float that controls the water level. Make sure when placing deodorizers and disinfectant products inside the tank that they do not obstruct any working parts. We recommend that you do not use bleach products inside your toilet tank. The bleach will react with the flapper plug and may cause leaks.



Many repairs can be completed by the average "do it yourselfer." If you are not sure how to fix your leak, ask a professional for advice.

# HOW TO READ YOUR METER

Your meter box is most likely located in your front yard near the road and is in a black plastic box. To access the meter, simply lift the small reading lid or gently remove the entire lid. Most meters will have a wire attached to them; be careful not to damage the wire. The meter will read like the odometer in your car. For billing purposes we read your meter in 100 gallon increments, but for leak surveys you may need to read additional numbers.



Above are the types of registers we use. To read your meter, read the numbers from left to right. The number to the far right is a tenth of a gallon or a fixed zero. In this example, the meter reads 0075340 or for billing purposes, it would read 753.

Should the odometer numbers be in between numbers, use the lower of the two numbers. The red circle or dark color triangle is called the leak indicator. Anytime water is passing through the meter the leak indicator will be moving, even with very low flows. Should you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact our office.